

AMENDMENT

In the specification:

On page 35, at line 27, please delete the paragraph on page 35, line 27, to page 36, line 8, and substitute therefor:

MEF2 polypeptides, like other MADS-box proteins, bind an A/T-rich DNA sequence. The consensus MEF2 binding site is YTA(A/T)4TAR. MEF2A, MEF2C and MEF2D (SEQ ID NO:25) have the same DNA binding specificity, whereas MEF2B binds the MEF2 consensus sequence with reduced affinity compared to other family members. Nucleotides flanking the MEF2 site have been shown to profoundly influence DNA binding (Yu et al., Genes Dev. 6:1783-98 (1992); Andres et al., J. Biol. Chem. 270:23246-49 (1995); and Fickett Mol. Cell. Biol. 16:437-41 (1996)). Evidence suggests that the DNA binding site is bent upon high affinity DNA binding (Meierhans et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 25:4537-44 (1997)).